



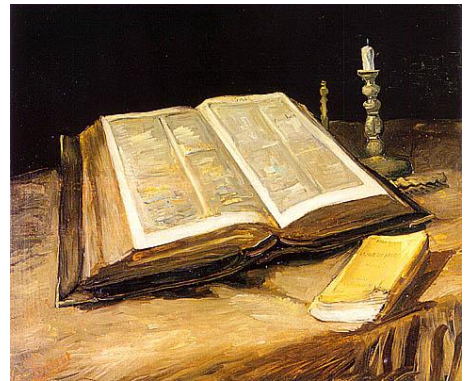
Bibliology



Bibliology

The study of the doctrines regarding the Bible

- In Bibliology, we are seeking to look at the doctrines specifically dealing with the Bible itself. This includes:
 - How was the Bible recorded?
 - How accurate is it?
 - How authoritative is it?
- Besides these doctrines, we will look at some practical issues related to these doctrines like:
 - How did we get the Bible as we have it today?
 - How was it decided what books are part of the Bible?
 - Why all the translations today?
 - How are we to use the Bible today?
- We will also examine:
 - The History of the Bible
 - Transmission: how the Bible has been recorded over time
 - Canon: the complete and exclusive collection of all inspired writings which God intended to be part of His revelation to man.
 - The Doctrine of Inspiration
 - Inspiration: God spoke through the prophets and apostles, using their own personalities, styles and vocabularies to record exactly what He wanted communicated to us.
 - The Doctrine of Inerrancy and Infallibility
 - Inerrancy: The Bible is true in all that it teaches and thus without error
 - Infallible: The Bible is dependable (will not fail) in all matters of faith and practice.
 - The Authority of Scripture
 - Authority: The Bible has the divine right to direct our lives in every area.
 - Translations
 - Translations: Reproducing God's Word into other languages.



The Development of the Bible

- **Revelation** – God’s communication of truth to man without which man cannot know God.
 - **General Revelation** - That which is revealed about God through nature and human intelligence.
 - Reveals God’s glory – Ps. 19:1-4
 - Reveals God’s authority – Rom.1:18-20
 - Reveals our sinful condition – Rom. 2:14-15
 - **Special Revelation** – That which is revealed about God through God’s direct communication with man.
 - Direct communication from – Gen.3:15
 - Oral transmission
 - Written transmission- Ex. 17:13-15
 1. The Book of the Law
 2. The Books of the Prophets

Jewish tradition says that Ezra gathered all of the writings into one complete set. This is what is referred to as “The Law and Prophets” or “The Law, the Prophets and the Writings.”

Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

Prophets: Former Prophets – Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings; Latter Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the book of the 12 (Minor Prophets)

Writings: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1 and 2 Chronicles.

- **Languages** – These writings were recorded in two languages. Both of these were:
 - From the Semitic family
 - Written from right to left
 - Written without vowels
 - Hebrew was the primary language until the time of the exile.
 - Aramaic was the trade language of the near East and it became the language of the common man in Palestine during and after the time of the exile. (See Nehemiah 8:8)
- **Writing Materials**
 - Stone – Ex. 31:18,34:1; Deut. 27:2-3, Joshua 8:30-32
 - Clay – Ez. 4:1
 - Wood – Is. 30:8, Hab.2:2
 - Leather – Jer. 36:23
 - Papyrus – (made from the reeds of an Egyptian plant) This would form a scroll or as the Greeks called it a biblos. The average scroll was about 30 feet long and 10 inches high.



- **Timeline**
 - Pre-Writing Phase – 4000 B.C. – 1500 B.C. = 2500 years
 - 1st Writing Phase – 1500 B.C. – 400 B.C. = 1,100 years
 - Silence – approximately 430 years
- **The Definitive Image of God – Jesus Christ!** – Jn. 1:1,14,18
 - Jesus is The Word – God broke the silence by communicating with us in the clearest form possible. Heb. 1:1-4
 - Jesus became one of us and walked among us.
 - He spoke directly to us.
 - He lived out our redemption for many to witness and then record.

Jesus Christ was God's greatest, clearest revelation and the center of all revelation. – Jn. 5:39

- **Church Writings** – Jesus lived, died and rose again. He then commissioned others to go and proclaim this revelation. Again, we see God taking the initiative to communicate to the world, His revelation.
 - Paul – the revealer of the mystery of the Church – Eph.3:1-12
 - God appointed Paul as an apostle.
 - God gave Paul direct revelation.
 - God told Paul the details about the Church.
 - God had Paul write this revelation down.
 - Paul – the church planter
 - Paul established churches using the Old Testament and new revelation from Christ.
 - Paul – the letter writer
 - When Paul could not be present, he wrote letters to the churches about God's new revelation for how the churches should function.

1. Romans
2. 1,2 Corinthians
3. Galatians
4. Ephesians
5. Philippians
6. Colossians
7. 1, 2 Thessalonians
8. 1,2 Timothy
9. Titus
10. Philemon



➤ Other Church Writings

- Letters written by other apostles besides Paul:

1. James
2. Jude
3. Hebrews
4. 1,2 Peter
5. 1,2,3 John, Revelation

- History

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts



• Languages

- Aramaic – Since the exile this had become the heart language of the Jewish people.
- Greek – the universal trade language of the time period of the early church.

• Writing Materials

- Papyrus

Note: Two terms that would be helpful at this point to understand:

1. Autographs – The original document written
2. Manuscripts – Handwritten copies of autographs

Because Papyrus was so fragile, none of the autographs remain today. When we refer to manuscripts, we will be referring to copies and fragments of copies.

Since Egypt was the main exporter of papyrus paper, eventually they were able to control who had libraries. This led to the development of animal skins for writing.

- Parchment – paper made from skins of sheep and goats.
- Vellum – paper made from skins of calves and antelopes.

Parchment and Vellum cost more than papyrus and was usually reserved for very expensive books. It is likely that no autographs (originals) were written on these but certainly manuscripts (copies) were.

- **Time Periods – 2nd phase of writing**

- **Time of Christ: 0 A.D. – 33 A.D. = 33 years**

Jesus, the definitive image of God, walked the earth and communicated directly with men for about 30 years

- **Founding of the Church : 30 A.D. – 60 A.D. = 30 years**

Jesus left the Apostles to begin the church during which time some writing did take place. At this time, persecution of the church was not heavy.

- James 45 A.D.
- Galatians- 48 A.D.
- 1,2 Thessalonians- 52 A.D.
- 1,2 Corinthians -55 A.D.
- Romans -56 A.D.
- Matthew- 58 A.D.
- Luke – 58 A.D.
- Acts – 61 A.D.

- **Establishing of the Church: 61 A.D. – 70 A.D. = 9 years**

Eventually persecution began to increase until the temple was finally destroyed in 70 A.D. Many of the letters written during this time were while Paul was in prison. The subject matter of many of these letters is to keep on persevering even in the face of fiery trials.

- Prison Epistles – 61 A.D.
 - Colossians
 - Ephesians
 - Philemon
 - Philippians
- Other books – 62-68 A.D.
 - 1, 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Hebrews
 - Jude
 - 1,2 Peter
 - Mark



- **Encouraging the Church: 70 A.D. – 96 A.D. = 26 years**

There was a time of silence after the temple was destroyed. Possibly from Ephesus, John wrote his Gospel of the history of Christ. The tone of the Gospel of John is different than that of the other three Gospel accounts. During this time John also wrote his three letters. Then while John was exiled on the Island of Patmos, he completed the last book of the Bible.

- John – 85 A.D.
- 1,2,3, John - ?
- Revelation – 96 A.D.

HEBREW ORDER OF OT BOOKS				
<i>Law (Torah)</i>		<i>Prophets (Nebhiim)</i>		<i>Writings (Kethubhim)</i>
1. Genesis	Former Prophets	6. Joshua	Poetical Books	14. Psalms
2. Exodus		7. Judges		15. Proverbs
3. Leviticus		8. Samuel		16. Job
4. Numbers		9. Kings		17. Song of Songs
5. Deuteronomy	Latter Prophets	10. Isaiah	Five Rolls (Megilloth)	18. Ruth
		11. Jeremiah		19. Lamentations
		12. Ezekiel		20. Ecclesiastes
		13. The Twelve		21. Esther
			Historical Books	22. Daniel
				23. Ezra-Nehemiah
				24. Chronicles

ORDER OF OT BOOKS IN OUR BIBLES			
<i>Law (Pentateuch)</i>		<i>Poetry</i>	
1. Genesis		18. Job	
2. Exodus		19. Psalms	
3. Leviticus		20. Proverbs	
4. Numbers		21. Ecclesiastes	
5. Deuteronomy		22. Song of Solomon	
<i>History</i>		<i>Prophets</i>	
6. Joshua		<i>Major Prophets</i>	<i>Minor Prophets</i>
7. Judges		23. Isaiah	28. Hosea
8. Ruth		24. Jeremiah	29. Joel
9. 1 Samuel		25. Lamentations	30. Amos
10. 2 Samuel		26. Ezekiel	31. Obadiah
11. 1 Kings		27. Daniel	32. Jonah
12. 2 Kings			33. Micah
13. 1 Chronicles			34. Nahum
14. 2 Chronicles			35. Habakkuk
15. Ezra			36. Zephaniah
16. Nehemiah			37. Haggai
17. Esther			38. Zechariah
			39. Malachi

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF NT BOOKS⁵⁷

Book	Church Period		Date
James	FOUNDING (15 years aprx)		A.D. 45
Galatians			
1 Thessalonians			
2 Thessalonians			
1 Corinthians			
2 Corinthians			
Romans			
Matthew			
Luke			
Acts			
Colossians	Prison Epistles	ESTABLISHING (10 years aprx)	A.D. 61
Ephesians			
Philemon			
Phillipians			
1 Timothy	Pastoral Epistles		
Titus			
2 Timothy			
Hebrews	Focus on Persecution		
Jude			
1 Peter			
2 Peter			
Mark			A.D. 68
FALL OF JERUSALEM (15 "silent years")			A.D. 70
John	CONTINUING (10 years aprx)		A.D. 85
1 John			
2 John			
3 John			
Revelation			
		A.D. 96	

Canonicity of the Bible

- **Definition of Canon:** The complete and exclusive collection of all inspired writings which God intended to be a part of His revelation to man.
 - History of the word: Canon, comes from the Greek work “kanon”. The word means, “rod, ruler, staff or measuring stick.” The Greek word “kanon” is derived from the Hebrew word “qaneh”, meaning “reed”, which is an Old Testament term that denotes a measuring rod. For example – Ez. 40:3, 42:16
 - Theological implications of the term: Eventually the word came to mean a rule or standard of anything.
- **History of Canonicity in the Old Testament**
 - The Law- When Moses first wrote, he was recognized as God’s clear prophet for the day. When God had Moses write the Law it is easy to imagine that the people would have immediately accepted it as God’s revelation.
 - The Prophets – The Law had clearly defined for the people what a true prophet was. (Deut. 13:1-3; 18:20-22) So when the Prophets wrote, we know that they were immediately accepted as authoritative from God.
 - The Writings
The Writings section was often included in the Prophets section.

NOTE: All of the sections of the Old Testament (Law, Prophets and Writings) were quoted by Christ as God’s Word and therefore we can take His authority that they are God’s Canon of Revelation to us. For example see Lk. 24:27

- Other books show the acceptant of the Old Testament
 - The Septuagint was written in 250 B.C. It was a translation of the Old Testament into Greek for the Greek speaking Jews. It’s title comes from the fact that seventy elders (Septuagint = 70) did the work of translation. It is often referred to as LXX.
 - Ecclesiasticus was a non-biblical book written in 200 B.C. that gives clear evidence of the acceptance of the Old Testament.
 - Dead Sea Scrolls were written from 250 B.C. to 100 B.C. These scrolls, nearly 800 of them were found in 11 caves on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea in 1947 and they contained every part of the Old Testament. These leather and papyrus manuscripts were an archaeological find like no other in modern history.



- Josephus was a Jewish historian in the days of Christ who wrote about how firmly the Jews held to their Scriptures.
 - Synod at Jamnia was a council of Jewish religious leaders that met in 90 A.D. and in short, they affirmed what was already believed to be true – that the books that were recognize in the Old Testament were indeed Holy Scripture.
- **Extent of the Old Testament Canon**
 - Homologumena- Undisputed books of the canon.
34 of the 39 Old Testament books
 - Antilegomena – Those questioned by some at various times. Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Ezekiel, and Proverbs
 - Pseudapigrapha – Those rejected by all. These books were full of historical as well as other inaccuracies that made it clear that they were not from God.
 - Apocrypha – Rejected by most but accepted by some at various times. These were never accepted into the canon until 1546. These are the only books to have been rejected throughout history and then later included.
 - **History of Canonicity in the New Testament**
 - The spread of Christianity necessitated that the apostles communicate in written form to the churches.
 - Numerous factors made it necessary to distinguish what writings would be considered in the canon.
 - Gnosticism was a religious system that taught ideas that are contrary to Scripture. They had their own books (which many of the “Lost Books of the Bible” and apocrypha NT books are a part of) and they used the Christian writings also.
 - Marcion’s Heresy refers to the efforts of a man named Marcion who came to Rome from Asia Minor and gained a strong following. To have writings that he could base his views on, he began to re-write the documents of the apostles. He edited them, took out large sections from them and re-wrote some parts. The result was that he created a competing set of books to base his false doctrines on.
 - Montanism was another heretical movement that came on the scene in about 170 A.D.. This heresy cast doubt in the minds of some of any of prophetic Scriptures in the New Testament.
 - Persecution also prompted the canonizing of Scriptures. In 300 A.D. the persecution focused on the destruction of the Scriptures. Who is going to give their life for a book that they are not confident came from God?

- The Church Fathers 220 A.D. – 405 A.D.
Origen, Dionysius, Eusebius, Cyril of Jerusalem, Athanasius, Augustine and many others all attested to the canon of the NT.
- Synod of Hippo (393 A.D.) and Carthage (393 A.D.)
The Orthodox Church in Africa accepted all 27 books of the NT.
- Jerome and the Latin Vulgate – Jerome translated all 27 books of the NT into Latin. He refused to translate the apocryphal books.



- **Extent of the New Testament Canon**
 - Homologumena – 20 of the 27 NT books that were accepted by everyone.
 - Antilegomena – Those questioned by some at various times. (Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, Jude and Revelation)
 - Pseudapigripha – These books were rejected by everyone.
 - Apocrypha – Rejected by most but accepted by some at various times.
- **Principles of the Canon**
 - Is it Authoritative?
 - Is it Prophetic?
 - Is it Authentic?
 - Is it Received?
 - Is it Dynamic?
- **Completion of the Canon**
 - Christ commissioned Apostles to found the church.
 - The church no longer needs new revelation.
 - The apostles died during the first century.
 - Revelation is the last letter written and it curses any additions.

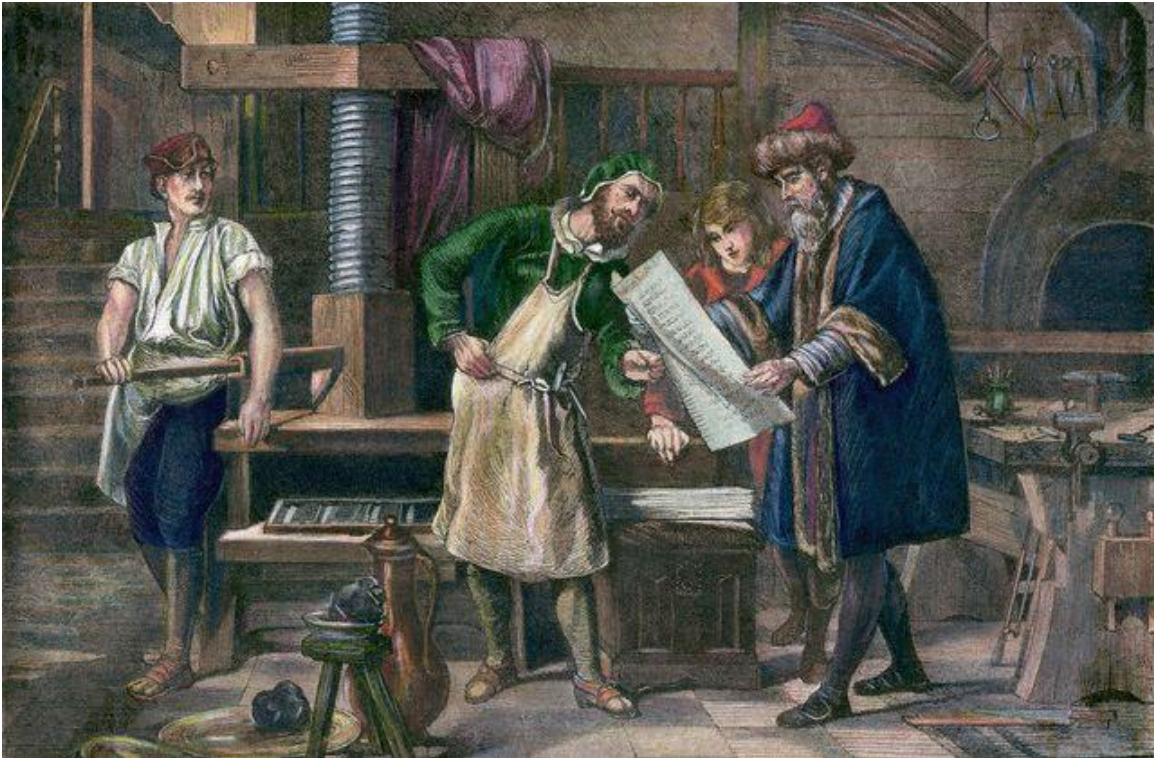
The Translations of the Bible

A Timeline:

380 A.D. **The Latin Vulgate** was translated by St. Jerome. He translated into Latin the Old Testament from the Hebrew and the New Testament from Greek. It continues to be the authoritative translation of the Roman Catholic Church to this day. The Protestant Reformation saw an increase in translations of the Bible into the common languages of the people.

1380 A.D. **The first English translation** of the Bible was by John Wycliffe. He translated the Bible into English from the Latin Vulgate. This was a translation from a translation and not a translation from the original Hebrew and Greek. Wycliffe was forced to translate from the Latin Vulgate because he did not know Hebrew or Greek.

1456 A.D. **Gutenberg** produced the first printed Bible in Latin. Printing revolutionized the way books were made. From now on books could be published in great numbers and at a lower cost.



1514 A.D. The Greek New Testament was printed for the first time by **Erasmus**. He based his Greek New Testament from only five Greek manuscripts, the oldest of which dated only as far back as the twelfth century. With minor revisions, Erasmus' Greek New Testament came to be known as the **Textus Receptus** or the "**received texts**."

1522 A. D. **Polyglot Bible** was published. The Old Testament was in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Latin and the New Testament in Latin and Greek. Erasmus used the Polyglot to revise later editions of his New Testament.

1525 **William Tyndale** publishes the first New Testament into English.

1534 A.D. **Martin Luther** prints a German translation of the Bible.

1535 A.D. **Myles Coverdale** completed the translation of the entire Bible in the English language that had been begun by Tyndale who was at the time of this printing was incarcerated in England.



1536 A.D. **William Tyndale** is strangled and burned at the stake for his efforts to produce a Bible in the English language. He had already published the New Testament in the English language.

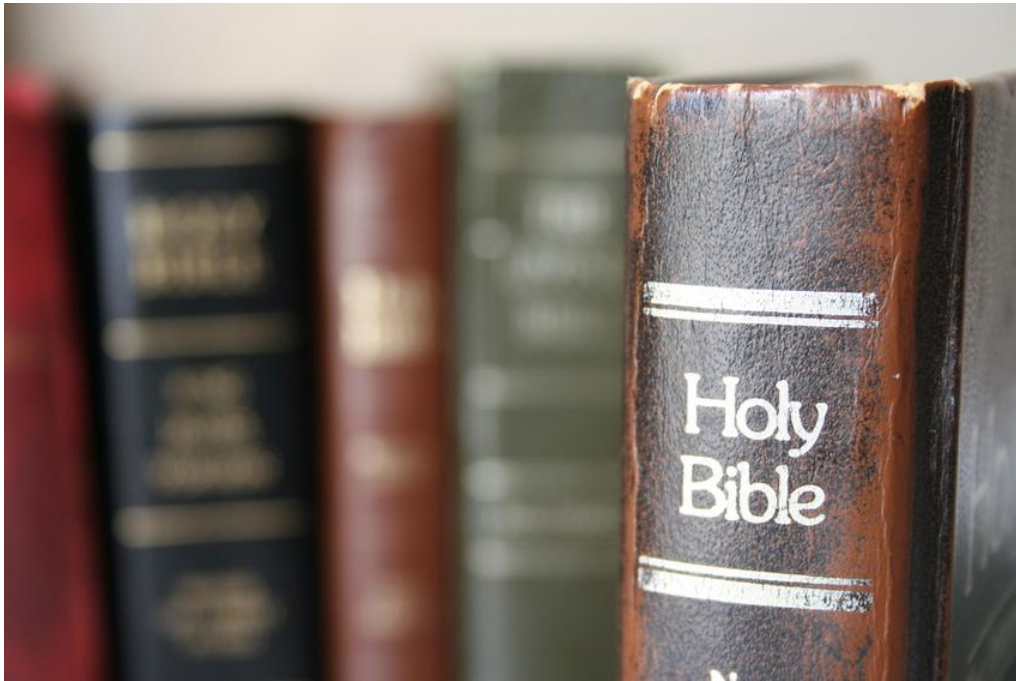


1537 A.D. **John Rogers** printed the second complete English translation of the Bible. It was a composite of the work of Tyndale, Coverdale and Roger's own interpretive work.

1539 A.D. **King Henry the VIII** authorizes the printing of the "**Great Bible**". This is the first English Bible fully authorized by the King of England.

1560 A.D. **The Geneva Bible** is published. It became the primary Bible of the Protestant Reformation and was used by the likes of William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, John Milton, John Donne and John Bunyan. The Geneva Bible was taken aboard the Mayflower. The Geneva Bible is the first Bible that the entire Old Testament was translated from the Hebrew while 80% of the New Testament found its language in Tyndale's translation work.

1568 A.D. **The Bishops Bible** is printed. This was an attempt of the Anglican church to produce a Bible that rivaled the Geneva Bible.



1611 A.D. The **King James Bible** was published in the English language. It was intended to be as accurate as the Geneva Bible but without the controversial marginal notes (proclaiming the Pope to be the Anti-Christ, etc.).

1782 A.D. **Robert Aiken** printed the first KJV Bible in America.

1791 A.D. Isaac Collins and Isaiah Thomas produced **the first family Bible** and **first illustrated Bible** in America.

1885 A.D. The **English Revised Version** of the Bible is published. This was the first Bible published that did not include the 14 Apocryphal books. This revision was led by over 50 British scholars of various denominations.

1901 A.D. The **American Standard Version** was published which was simply the American scholars revision of the English Revised Version.

1971 A.D. The **New American Standard Bible** is published as a modern and accurate word for word English translation of the Bible.

1971 A.D. The **New International Version** is published as a modern and accurate phrase for phrase English translation of the Bible.

1982 A.D. The **New King James Bible** is published as a modern English version maintaining the original style of the King James.

2002 A.D. The **English Standard Version** is published as a translation to bridge the gap between the accuracy of the NASB and the readability of the NIV.

Doctrine of Inspiration

- **Definition of Inspiration:** God speaking thru specially chosen men using their own personalities, styles, and vocabularies so that what was written was exactly what He wanted written.
- **Testimony of Scripture itself:**
Zech. 7:12, Gal. 1:11-12, 2 Tim. 3:16
- **The extent of Inspiration:** The Bible is clear the very words of Scripture are inspired.
Jer. 26:2, Ex. 24:4, Dt. 18:18, Mt. 22:31-32
- **The method of inspiration:** We do not believe that this was merely a mechanical dictation but rather that God moved these men along by His Holy Spirit.
- **Summary**
 - Inspiration is initiated by God's will.
 - Inspiration uses the personality, style and vocabulary of chosen men.
 - God moves these men by the Holy Spirit.
 - Every word in all Scripture is God's Word!



The Doctrine of Inerrancy

- **Definition:** The autographs of Scripture are without error and completely true. Inerrancy simply means without error.

The Doctrine of Infallibility

- **Definition:** The Bible is 100% trustworthy and will not fail.

Summary of Inspiration, Inerrancy and Infallibility

- Inspiration tells us that the Bible is the Word of God.
- Inerrancy tells us that the Bible does not have any errors in the autographs.
- Infallibility tells us that the Bible can be depended upon for everything that it says.

The Authority of the Bible

- Everything about the Bible reflects its authority.
 - It's Development
 - God took the initiative.
 - God revealed Himself to us.
 - It's Canonicity
 - Men recognized its authority and separated the canon.
 - No man or council ever approved the Bible's authority but merely recognized it.
 - The Bible is recognized as dynamic in changing lives.
 - It's Transmission
 - God gave men the responsibility of preserving the Word.
 - The authority of the Word demanded that it be preserved.
 - The authority of the Word was honored and thus carefully handled.
 - The Bible stands alone in ancient witness because of its recognized authority.
 - It's Inspiration
 - God "breathed" the Bible.
 - God moved men by the Holy Spirit.
 - God emphasized every word in every part.
 - It's Inerrancy/Infallibility
 - God's Word is error free. It is the only source of authority that is.
 - God's Word is trustworthy to live by.



The Impact of Scripture on the People of God

- Scripture is the means for our spiritual lives to begin. It is the means by which God brings sinners like us to a knowledge of Salvation.
- Our spiritual growth depends on the Word of God.

The Intake of Scripture

- Hear the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.
- Read the Word.
- Meditate on the Word.
- Study the Word.
- Memorize the Word.
- Apply the Word.



Resources used in compiling this booklet:

Basic Theology, Charles C. Ryrie, ©1999 Moody Press

Unger's Bible Handbook, Merrill F. Unger, © 1967 Moody Press

Doctrinal Course: Bibliology, Thomas Freeman, ©2005 New Tribes Bible Institute

The English Bible: How it came to be, John B. Polhill, Reprinted from *The Alabama Baptist*

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